

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 4, 5 and 7 and amend claims 1 and 6 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A manufacturing method of a thin film magnetic head comprising:
 - forming a lower magnetic core,
 - forming an end portion of an upper magnetic core above said lower magnetic core,
 - forming a rear portion of said upper magnetic core by using a negative resist or an electron beam resist to form a frame for plating above said end portion of said upper magnetic core,
 - covering an end portion of said upper magnetic core with a non-magnetic protective film, and
 - removing said non-magnetic protective film from an upper part until said upper magnetic core is exposed,
 - wherein a front end of a connection area in which said end portion is connected to a rear portion of said upper magnetic core is located between a face opposed to a medium and a position defining a gap depth;
 - wherein said end portion of said upper magnetic core has a first face emerging at the face opposed to a medium,
 - wherein said rear portion of said upper magnetic core has a second face not emerging at the face opposed to the medium, which is connected to said end portion of said upper magnetic core at a position of said second face,
 - wherein a distance between said first face and said second face is 0.2 to 1.5 μm , and the track width of the end portion of the upper magnetic core is 1.5 μm or less.

2. (Previously Presented) A manufacturing method of said thin film magnetic head according to claim 1, wherein said non-magnetic protective film is removed by a polishing process or an etch-back process using dry etching.

3. (Previously Presented) A manufacturing method of said thin film magnetic head according to claim 1, wherein said non-magnetic protective film is removed by using one or more kinds of gases selected from CF_4 , C_4H_8 , CH_3 , BCl_3 , Cl_2 , SiCl_4 , Ne, Ar, Kr, and Xe.

4 - 5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A manufacturing method of a thin film magnetic head comprising:

forming a lower magnetic core,

forming an end portion of an upper magnetic core above said lower magnetic core,

and

forming a rear portion of said upper magnetic core by using a negative resist or an electron beam resist to form a frame for plating, above said end portion of said upper magnetic core,

wherein said end portion of said upper magnetic core has a first face emerging at the face opposed to a medium,

wherein said rear portion of said upper magnetic core has a second face not emerging at the face opposed to the medium, which is connecting to said end portion of said upper magnetic core at a position of said second face,

wherein a distance between said first face and said second face is 0.2 to 1.5 μm , and the track width of the end portion of the upper magnetic core is 1.5 μm or less.

7. (Canceled)